



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Ms. Anne S. Hill
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING AUGUST 5, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Barbara Bigby
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absence

Vice Chair Frank S. Bacio
Rita Hall
Anne S. Hill

Staff, Commission Services

Martha Arana
Jimmy Prieto
Andrew Sevrin

APPROVAL OF JULY 29, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Moore and unanimously carried, the minutes of July 29, 2009, were approved with the following change:

- On page 3, under "Facility/Group Home Inspection Reports From July 15, 2009, to July 21, 2009,"

Long Beach Branch – Commissioner Montañó

The facility was visited on July 21, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: repairs made to the damaged floor were insufficient (only a small area on the end of the 2nd floor was repaired); fire extinguisher needs recharging; ~~small area in the second floor needs to be cleaned.~~

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montaña reported on the following:

- "Wilmington Police National Night Out 2009". August 4, 2009 at the Harbor Christian Center. Chair Montaña attended the event, and said it was attended by LAPD, Officers of the Los Angeles Port Police Department and Firefighters of Station 38 in Wilmington.
- "Death of Boy Spurs Changes", Los Angeles Times, July 31, 2009, regarding the Department of Children and Family Services' plan to increase its administrative oversight of child abuse investigations in light of the recent child fatality case.
- "System is Blamed in Boy's Death", Los Angeles Times, August 4, 2009, regarding the mishandling of a recent child abuse report.
- "Five Die in Fiery O.C. Crash", Los Angeles Times, August 5, 2009, regarding the automobile fatality in Mission Viejo which claimed a family of five.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This item was deferred to the August 12, 2009 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORTS

Chair Montaña advised the commission to revisit and submit reports on Le Roy Boys Home, Moore's Cottage, and Macro Home.

DISCUSSION OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Commissioner Hammargren recommended that the Commission reevaluate the scholarship program next year to allow for an improved recruiting process of viable scholarship candidates.

Commissioner Bigby suggested partnering with the NAACP to find scholarship prospects next year.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM JULY 29, 2009 TO AUGUST 4, 2009

Phoenix Homes – 38, #3 – Commissioner Bigby

The facility was visited on July 2, 2009 and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Some fingerprints not on file.

You Are The Difference Foundation – 49, #3 - Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore No report on file (Verbal).

The facility was visited on July 30, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Eggleston Youth Center – 16, #3 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

The facility was visited on August 3, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Ha're John's Paradise - 22, #4 – Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore

No report on file (Verbal).

The facility was visited on August 4, 2009; unable to inspect due to a training session conducted at the facility.

Pacific Lodge Boys Home – 35, #1- Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

The facility was visited on August 4, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Project Six / Help Group – 39, #4 - Commissioner Bigby

The facility was visited on August 4, 2009 and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Boys bathroom toilet needs repair; more towels and linens needed; blinds needed in bedrooms 9 and 10.

The Commission suggested that the Probation Department and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) should require a copy of the Health and Education Passport before a youth is accepted into a group home.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montaña shared an article titled "Sybil Brand, 104; Fought for Jailed Women", Los Angeles Times, February 19, 2004, regarding founder Sybil Brand who passed away at the age 104, and was recognized for her extensive efforts to improve conditions for imprisoned women.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There was none

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Arana
Commission Services Division